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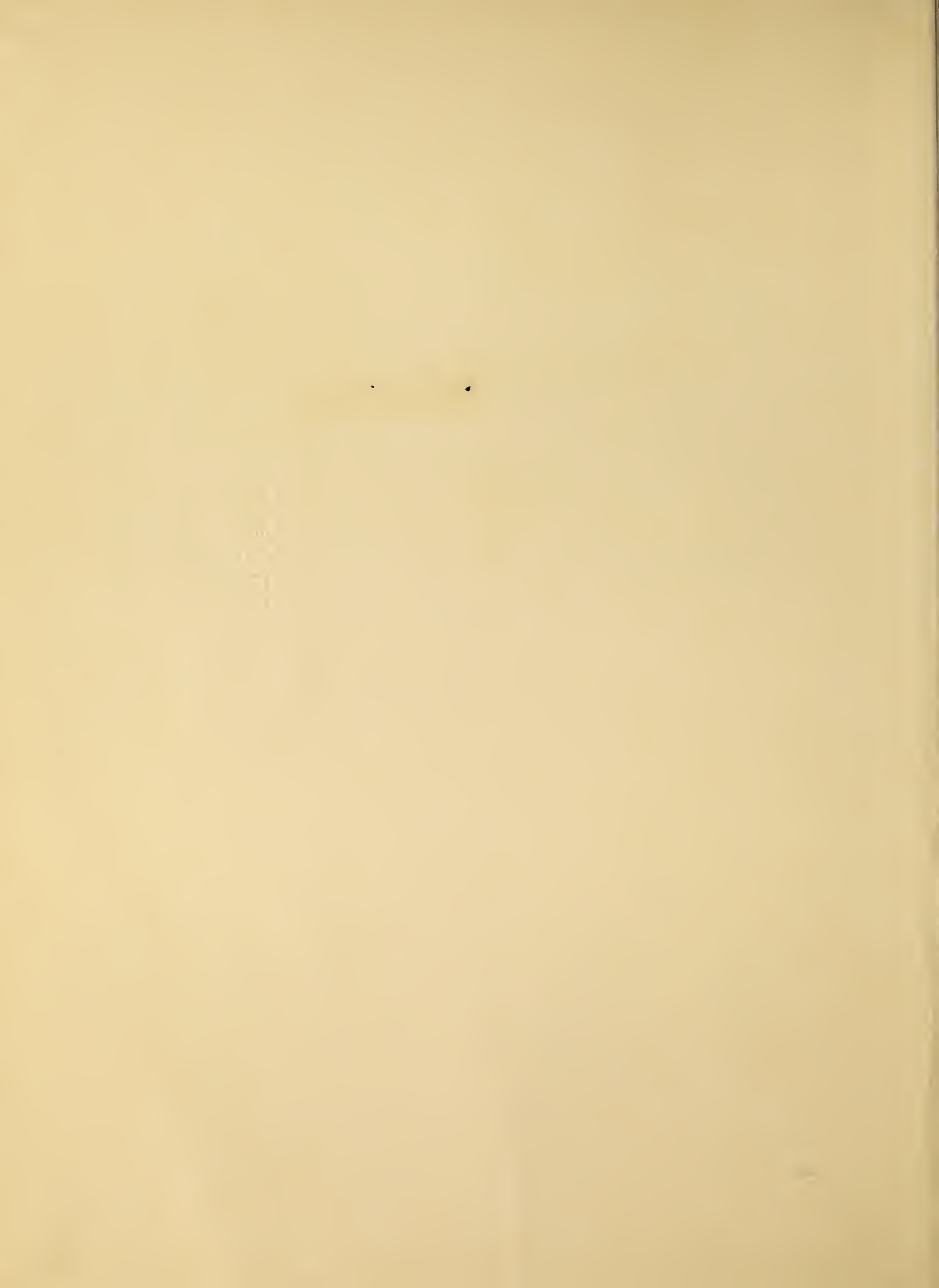
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BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY CRABS

+ AND HIS WIFE,
ANNA GEORGE

24
John Crabs



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The following typed script is a copy of an account written in 1883 by John Crabs, son of Henry and Anna Crabs. A grandson of the author, John Crabs, still lives in the house pictured above, which was built by Henry Crabs in 1822. Dr. Carl Crabb of Carrollton, Ohio, loaned the copy from which this copy was made. Later he was able to show me the original. The picture was taken in 1959.

The following biography is a short detail of the life of Henry Crabs and Anna, his wife, together with some history of circumstances and events connected with a long and eventful struggle in the first settlement of this country, and the labor, care and anxiety attendant the raising to maturity a large family consisting of twelve children, and living to see all married and settled in life, with grandchildren in twelve families.

Henry Crabs was born in Washington County Pennsylvania, on Pigeon Creek, on the 25th day of April 1776. Independence Year.

It might not be improper here to refer shortly to his parentage. They were Germans; came to the United States in early life; settled for some time east of the mountains; from there, they came to Washington County, Pennsylvania. They came to their new home on foot, carrying their moving on their backs and on the back of their stripper heifer. This was about the middle of the seventeenth century, at the time when lands were taken by tomahawk right, and when the Indian, the wolf, the panther and the bear, infested

the country and were a terror to the early settler.

It might here be said that his wife's maiden name was Sarah Keller. They were, by profession, Lutherans of the strictest sort, said by those who know them best to be very exemplary and even model Christians. They raised eight children, four boys and four girls, named, Philip, Abram, Jacob, Henry, Christiana, Susan, Sarah and Catherine.

These eight children were full cousins of the once famous Wetzel family, who figured so largely in the border warfare with the Indians which contending for our supposed --- or we might say usurped---rights to this country. And while we admire the bravery of the frontiersmen in the conflict yet we have no sympathy for such cruelty and cannot approve of the treatment the Red Man received at the hands of Wetzel and his cohorts. And whether it will reflect any credit to notice the relationship will be for others to judge. A busy and all controlling Providence no doubt was preparing the way for the introduction of the Gospel. But Wetzel "meant not so".

This good, honest old Dutchman spelled his name Krebs. And all his descendants for all time to come should have

spelled it the same way. But we see it spelled so many different ways now by the lineal descendants of Henry Krebs that there is no hope of ever returning to the original. There can be no harm, however, of protesting against such dishonor to parents, and admonishing children to always act towards parents so as to insure reward of "long life and prosperity".

This good, old man lived to see and mourn over the insult, but died without effecting a change.

The destiny of those eight children of Henry and Sarah Krebs, about as follows: Phil lived and died on the homestead in Washington County, Pa. Abram moved to Ohio near East Springfield, Jefferson County. Jacob, to Indiana on the White River. The daughters married and moved to Kentucky, but soon left on account of slavery and settled in Ohio near Chillicothe and helped to build up an associate congregation; became wealthy, and respectable members of society. Two of the girls married brothers named Christly and Peter Platter. One of them married a man named Hawk. Don't recollect who the other married. Ephriam Wilson.

Henry Crabs, the principal subject of this biography,

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and history, learned the blacksmith trade when a boy. His boss was a very crabbed man. An ill-natured Irishman and lived very unhappy in his marriage relation. Yet he served his term of three years and learned his trade well.

In the old family Bible we find this record:

Married: Henry Crabs and Anna George, January 10, 1797, both of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

This record would be incomplete without a short account of the parentage of Anna George.

The George family is understood to be of Scotch descent. In one of the persecutions they fled to Ireland and settled in the County Antrim.

Thomas George, who was a widower, emigrated with his three children, Robert, Alexander and Anne, from Ireland about the middle of the seventeenth century and landed in Philadelphia. From there, they moved to Harrisburg, the daughter excepted, she having died either on ship or soon after landing. While at Harrisburg the two sons grew to manhood. Robert, the eldest, intermarried with Christiana Plants, German lady, and while there, their eldest child was born, named Thomas George, recently of Ross Township, Jefferson County, Ohio. In the latter part of the seven-

teenth century the whole family removed to Western Pennsylvania. The widowed father, Thomas George, married and settled near Paris, Washington County, Pennsylvania--near the Virginia line--where he died and was buried in the Paris Graveyard.

Robert George, the eldest son, settled in Miller's Run near Venice, Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he raised a large and influential family; where he died in 1820. These George men were Covenanters of the strictest sort. A grandson of Robert George is preaching to a congregation of Covenanters in Beaver Falls, with acceptance, at this writing.

Alexander George, the other son of Thomas George, settled in the forks of Yough, Pennsylvania, where he intermarried with Mary Ringland, with whom he had four sons, named, John, Thomas, Alexander and Robert, and three daughters, Anna, Polly and Sally, after which his wife died. He afterwards married a woman named Hosack, with whom he had two sons, named Henry and William. Alexander George died early in the eighteenth century. The family were raised in the doctrines and practice of the Covenanter Church.

The children by the first wife all moved to Eastern Ohio, and in the absence of a church of their choice they united with the Associate Church. The two sons of the second wife remained in Washington County for some time, but finally moved to Ohio and settled in Muskingum County. They brought their Covenanter principles with them. They lived and died in them and no doubt are in Heaven today reaping the reward of faithfulness.

It should be noted here that the Rev. H. H. George, D. D., of Beaver Falls College, is a son of Henry George, and grandson of Alexander George, who is the father of Ann George -- intermarried with Henry Crabs.

Henry Crabs and Anna, his wife, after sojourning in Washington County, Pennsylvania, a little more than one year after their marriage, during which time their first child was born--a son named Alexander after the Grandfather George. They, in company with a few others, -- James Shane, father of Isaac Shane, late of Jefferson County, Ohio, being one of the company,-- moved to Ohio in search of a home, and landed at Steubenville -- there being only a few houses there at that time -- about the year 1798.

Hana Wilson, Cable and a Prominent colored gentlemen called Black Harry (for short) being amongst the few inhabitants.

A circumstance occurred the night they stopped in Steubenville which be worthy of note as a sample of backwoods official business. A couple presented themselves before the Justice to be united in matrimony with very little ceremony. He, by virtue of authority vested in him by the United States and the State of Ohio, and in the presence of Black Harry, my wife, Dolly and God Almighty, pronounced them "man and wife". Black Harry was very jubilant over the fact that his name was first mentioned in the list of witnesses.

Their moving consisted in what could be tied in a sheet and carried on the back. They stopped about eight miles from Steubenville and about one mile east of what is since known as the Castner Place. It was called the Island Creek Settlement. He there erected a shop and worked at his trade. The iron he used was brought over the mountains on packhorses. Salt and everything they needed and couldn't produce was brought the same way. Their flour was made over the river, and all their grinding done at

the same place. During their sojourn on the Island Creek there was added to the family two more children, named, Sarah and Mary.

Meanwhile, by close application to business, and a strict economy, and with the assistance of a frugal and industrious wife, they earned and saved as much money as would purchase a home.

He and his brother Abram Crabs from Washington County, Pennsylvania, entered each a quarter-section of land in Salem Township near East Springfield in Jefferson County, Ohio. The quarter entered by Abram is still known as the Crabs Farm, he having lived there until he raised a very large family. Having the second wife he was the father of twenty-one children, and raised to manhood and womanhood fifteen. They are now scattered in the west and in numbers immense. The quarter section entered by Henry Crabs is now known as the Shull Farm, he having sold to Shull about the year 1806. During their sojourn on this place there was added two more children, one boy and one girl, named, Elizabeth and Henry. Here he farmed some and worked some at his trade. By industry and care they still every year

added a little. Indeed, the additions in those days, except the children, were few and small. But this was not the place Providence had fixed for their resting place in this world--they must make one more change. As stated before, he sold the East Springfield farm to Jacob Shull and entered the quarter-section in Ross Township, known as the Crab Homestead, where they both lived until they were called to that better land over the river where sojourning is ended; where the habitation is fixed, and they rest from their labor and their works follow them. On this homestead the balance of their children were born, which amounted to twelve--eight sons and four daughters.

These twelve children all lived to maturity. All raised families and presented Father and Mother Crabs with grandchildren.

Henry Crabs, being of German parentage, was a plain unvarnished man, easy, honest, unassuming and truthful. Unsuspicious almost to a fault.

He united with the Presbyterian Church and worshiped in the old brick church at Bacon Ridge during the few first years of his sojourn in Ross Township. Rev. Thomas Hunt officiating pastor at Two Ridge and Bacon Ridge. Not

satisfied with that church on account of its Psalmody he lifted his certificate. It might be proper to remark here that he always used the Scripture Psalmody in his family worship. When opportunity offered he connected with the Associate Church and worshiped with that church during his life.

He and Thomas George were instrumental in forming the congregation at Yellow Creek --- then called the Seceder Church, now the United Presbyterian. They were both elected elders and lived to see a prosperous congregation gathered, we might say, almost from the world. From the first effort at union between the Associate and the Associate Reformed Churches, Father Crabs often expressed a strong desire to live to see it consummated. His desire was granted.

His well established Christian character, which was exhibited by a long life of usefulness in the church of his choice, and indeed, we might say in the world, had its first impulses from the faithful training of pious and Christian parents.

By industry and care he gathered a competence of this world to make him comfortable, with something always for

the church and state. And the needy who applied for favors always found him abundant in deeds of kindness.

After having spent a long life of usefulness, and over fifty years of that life on the Ross Township farm, he died, at the good old age of eighty-three years, and was buried in the graveyard at the United Presbyterian Church at Yellow Creek.

His influence for good will always be felt, and the world will always be the better of his having lived in it.

Mother Crabs was of Scotch-Irish descent and differed somewhat in temperament from her German husband. She took a very deep interest in the management of her department of the household and the family. She was careful, anxious and impulsive in the discharge of her business wherever duty called.

A little disposed to look at the dark side, but always had the most implicit confidence in an over-ruling providence. She would often say in troublous times, "Thy way to God commit". Her parents were Covenanters by profession and she was well drilled in the principles of the Church and the duties and requirements of its members, and especially that family drill for which the Covenanter Church

is so remarkable. She was a firm believer in the "forbid" in the Second Commandment, that God should not be worshiped any way not appointed in His word. Under much bodily weakness she discharged the duties of a faithful wife and an affectionate mother.

From November 21, 1797 to April 23, 1823 she was the mother of twelve children. These children she raised to maturity and saw them all married and having families of their own, and settled in life.

A retrospective view would take us back to the old family cradle, and the twenty-five years during which those twelve children were being born and rocked in the same "heirloom", with their little flaxen heads once pillowed there, each occupying it in turn, and only leaving it to make room for the next stranger--who could only occupy it till another must have the place. Think of the fair young heads once pillowed there--baby after baby reposing in it. Think of the fond anxiety of a fond, careful loving mother over those helpless babes for the long twenty-five years in which they were being born and reared--watching and praying lest some one might be snatched from her embrace. But not so. All were spared to pass through the same or-

deal. All were blessed with a mother's watching, and a mother's prayers, with a kind Providence that only can protect until all were brought to manhood and womanhood.

We might suppose that mother's cares are now ended. Not so. Never while there is a living mother and a living child. That same care and anxiety that watched over and prayed for them in infancy will follow them until one or the other is hushed in death. Base ingratitude that, for a child to treat a parent---especially a mother---with the least show of disrespect. Children who honor parents have the promise of long life and prosperity.

Mother Crabs, not having the opportunity to worship in the Covenanter Church, united with the Associate Church at Yellow Creek and was a member in full privilege there until she was taken a member of the invisible church of the first born in Heaven.

Dear patient Mother, her work here is finished and she has entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God--and her works to follow her. Mother Crabs professed to be a Christian and her everyday life bore evidence of the sincerity of her profession

Her influence was good in the church, in the family, and the world was better for her having lived in it.

Father and Mother Crabs were professionally and practically Christians; born of christian parents and brought up under strictly christian influence, and educated to industry and economy. Thus were they prepared to start in life. Trusting in God. Meeting adversity with resignation and always thankful for prosperity when in the providence of a bountiful benefactor it came. And who ever heard them recount the good and the bad, the sorrows and the joys, the worry, labor, trials, disappointments, and all the ups and downs of life, must say they had their full share of both prosperity and adversity.

Privations in the early settlement of Ohio were many. 'Twould be an endless task to recount them; 'twould be easier to tell the luxuries. Indeed privations was the order of the day--the rule, and luxuries the exception.

Money being scarce all trading was done for an equivalent in produce. Flax and tow linen was an article of trade as well as wheat and other grain. The children were clothed in homespun, and when the boys could dress in

striped, or cross barred coperas pants and tow shirt they were ready for church, barefooted. If the girls could be furnished with a linsey-wolsey dress--a little short and not awful wide--they were ready for church, too--the feet not always clad.

It might be noted here that wheat placed on horseback in a three-bushel sack, packed nine or ten miles, would trade one bushel wheat for one pound of coffee; one bushel wheat for one yard calico. Coffee once a week for the old folks sufficed. It wasn't considered good for children in those days--"made 'em sick". And it didn't take so much to do, and the same with calico, no consulting magazines for the latest styles. The "coat was cut according to the cloth". ** See page 54.

The first house he built on his Ross Township farm was a log structure about eighteen by twenty-two feet, scutched down in the inside, well daubed with clay. A few rounds of logs more than the first story for what was then called a loft. A large fireplace not less than five feet in the end of the house, back wall built of rough stones to the mantel, and chimney of sticks and clay, both out side

the house; covered with clapboards weighted down with poles (called weight poles separated by knees).

The entrance to the loft was outside the house close by the chimney in the gable end. A hole was made by cutting off a few logs, placing an upright on each side and fastening them to the ends of the logs to hold them in place. A ladder was constructed of two poles with rungs from bottom to top. This made the passage to the loft, which was set apart as the sleeping apartment of the male members of the family. A well ventilated and a healthy place to sleep. Most any evening about the time children retired might have been seen a lot of flaxen headed urchins of the male persuasion, like so many monkeys, running up and down the ladder; some on top, some on the under side running up hand over hand to the top rung; skinning the cat and slipping through the hole that led to the sleeping apartment. Worship over, feet washed, the play on the ladder, nothing remained but laying aside the tow garment, crawling into bed and a "Now I lay me" and all was silent for the night.

This is a summer scene, beautifully pleasant. It

might not be amiss to give its counterpart and change it to a winter scene. That loft would be considered a little too well ventilated in those days of feather beds and other comforts--at least in winter. To reach that sleeping apartment there must be a short travel through snow or frost. It was no rare thing to see those boys take a real scamper in the snow before ascending the ladder, as snow frequently insinuates itself into places where it might be considered obtrusive. Yet it is no respecter of persons and will go any place at the bidding of the wind, and the wind frequently drove it into that sleeping apartment. After the play in the snow and the bedroom reached it was discovered that everything was covered with snow, which would bring an appeal to the source of all comfort for childrer. Note the following: "I declare if this loft isn't all covered with snow again," says Hen. "W'y yes", says Abe, "I've been trampin' in snow ever since I cum up. Mother, this bed is all covered with snow again." "Well, Sonny, pick up the top cover carefully and shake the snow off and creep in and you'll soon be warm." Orders obeyed all right, and very soon there was a bed full of warm boys

sleeping soundly.

It is good to take a retrospective view of the condition of things only sixty or seventy years ago, and to compare with the present. There is no better way to excite our gratitude for the benefits we have from the labors of others. Those who had been tried and know and experienced the realities in the life of those days; which others cannot imagine and no amount of explanation can make them feel fully. Other families in the same community were in much the same circumstances. We might mention Coe, Stewart, George, Elliott, Hardenbrook, Scott, Drake, McCutchen, all engaged in the same struggle to keep "soul and body together", and secure a living for an increasing family, more or less.

Steven Coe undertook to build a mill to grind grain for the community. Having very little means of his own the neighbors assisted, going day after day, finding their own tools and provisions until the structure for the mill was completed and the dam built. This relieved them going to the river for grinding. This mill was afterwards owned by Mordicai Moore, Sr., and did grinding until Mordicai Moore,

Jr., built a steam mill on nearly the same grounds.

The bear and the wolf were the only wild animals much dreaded. The latter was a source of great annoyance. It was almost impossible to keep sheep or raise pigs.

The Indians having forsaken their old hunting grounds were not much dreaded. Only one made his appearance, a large friendly Indian with a very large dog, gun, tomahawk and butcher knife, who passed several times from the west to the Ohio River. He called himself Jack Helison. Mother Crabs always gave him his dinner as he passed. He always ate with his own knife and wiped it carefully on the back of his big brown dog.

Meanwhile, "as goods increased they increased that ate them". By blacksmithing and farming, industry and economy, Father Crabs accumulated some property, owning at one time five hundred and sixty acres of land. While the country was being improved and the neighbors increasing things began to assume a different aspect. Boring for salt was one of the first experiments. It proved successful and was an addition to the comforts of the inhabitants, and formed an article of trade and increasing wealth. The

fame and novelty of the salt works attracted the attention of many to Yellow Creek, some from curiosity and others as laborers. It did not add anything to the morality of the community. Many of them were drinkers of whiskey and very bad men. Some entire outlaws. Enough grain to do a mill to grind, salt, maple sugar and molasses, vegetables of all kinds to satisfy the everyday wants and nothing for luxuries. Good health and everybody contented and happy.

In the meantime there was an effort being made to organize a congregation of Seceders; there were preachers of that denomination occasionally. The services were held in private houses or in a tent erected for the purpose, and sometimes in barns. Elijah Scroggs, Emery, and Murray all preached occasionally and held several communions and gathered a small congregation. John Donaldson, a Scotchman, was called to preach one-third time at Scroggsfield and one-third time at Glade Run, the three places forming one charge. During Mr. Donaldson's pastorate they built a brick church on a lot procured from Stewart McClave. Rev. James Patterson succeeding Donaldson preached in the charge about seventeen years with acceptance and a good degree of

success, the congregation numbering about one hundred and forty members. Rev. Patterson being called to the Presidency of Westminster College at New Wilmington. Rev. J. S. Easton occupied the pulpit for a few years, Scroggsfield taking him all his time. Rev. T. H. Simpson occupied the place for four or five years, during which time there was built commodious frame house---Steven Elliott, builder. Rev. James Golden next occupied the pulpit until failing health admonished him to withdraw. Rev. H. Y. Leeper has been the pastor for about fourteen years, and has filled the place with acceptance and we hope with profit.

. But to return to the family history.

In that log house were born five more children, Abram, John, Philip, Anne and Thomas. That log house becoming dilapidated it had to be repaired or replaced by a new one. Father Crabs wisely chose the latter. In 1820 he built a brick 22 x 30 feet, two stories with a fine cellar and kitchen at one end. Thomas Helliard did the stone work and Joseph Reed the brick, Cornelius Strawuck and Richard McEldeny assisting.

In this house two more children were born, George in

December the first year they lived in it, and William in the third year after. This was a very comfortable home with all its surroundings; fine water privilege, fruit abundant, and every other thing necessary to make life desirable. Thus beginning with so little of the good things of this life they were permitted to end their days in peace and plenty, Mother Crabs enjoying their comfortable house twenty-eight years and Father Crabs thirty-eight years, "And they died."

It would be proper before closing this history to give a short account of those twelve children, their births, marriages and lives to the present.

In the old family Bible we find the following record:

BORN	- Alexander Crabs	- Nov. 21, 1797-	Dec. 28, 1880
"	- Sarah Crabs	- March 12, 1799-	Aug. 4, 1842
"	- Mary Crabs	- March 12, 1801-	Jan. 2, 1893
"	- Elizabeth Crabs	- Dec. 7, 1802-	Apr. 28, 1887
"	- Henry Crabs, Jr.	- Nov. 30, 1804-	Oct. 11, 1845
"	- Abraham Crabs	- Aug. 8, 1806-	Feb. 22, 1891
"	- John Crabs	- Nov. 20, 1808-	Dec. 10, 1899
"	- Philip Crabs	- Apr. 1, 1811-	Dec. 22, 1889
"	- Annis Crabs	- Oct. 19, 1813-	Mar. 17, 1893
"	- Thomas Crabs	- Jan. 1, 1816-	Jan. 7, 1900
"	- George Crabs	- Dec. 4, 1820-	June 28, 1888
"	- William Crabs	- April 23, 1823-	Mar. 7, 1892

Alexander, the eldest of those children, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The balance in Jefferson County, Ohio, and all married in the last described house, except Sarah, who was married to John Robins seven days before she was seventeen years old in the log cabin heretofore spoken of. Mr. Robbins was a very kind and agreeable husband and an indulgent parent. Sarah Robins was of fine temperament and very prudent, and was highly respected by all with whom she was associated. She was rather remarkable for candor and uprightness. They lived and died in what is now Carroll County. They were members of the Associate Church at Scroggsfield, now the United Presbyterian. Their children were all baptized in that church and were all church members. They raised ten children, three boys and seven girls, named, Elizabeth, Anne, William, Henry, Mary, Sarah, Jane, Isobel, John, Rachel, Eliza. These ten children are all married. Some of them have raised, and others in process of raising average families. So there were children, grand children and great grandchildren from the old stock, and the end is not yet.

The Crabs and George families are known to be operating members of the Underground Railway, and formed a corps from conductor to brakeman, and always ready for service or any emergency and at any call, and many a poor wanderer was fed and sheltered and passed on the way to freedom.

Sarah, wife of John Robbins, died August 4, 1842 in the fortythird year of her age, and is buried in Scroggsfield Cemetery.

Before the days of manufacturing by steam or water power every well managed and industrious household was a manufacturing establishment. Flax was prepared from the seed through all the different manipulations of plowing, sowing, pulling, spreading for watering, lifting, threshing, breaking, scutching, hackling, spinning, weaving and making up. We might say that weaving was not done in every house, but must say that very much of the preparation and weaving was performed by the women of the family, and especially when they predominated in numbers.

The young man who found a wife in one of those manu-

facturing establishments generally got a nucleus to a fortune. The wool was frequently carried by hand and spun on the same little wheel used for spinning flax.

It was the good fortune of Alexander Crabs to get a wife in one of those families. He was united in marriage with Sarah McCutcheon, February 28, 1823. Daughter of David and Jane McCutcheon. They owned and lived on the place now occupied by the widow and heirs of W. W. Sutton, late of Ross Township, Jefferson County, Ohio. The McCutcheon family consisted of seven girls and one boy. The women of that family were all manufacturers and understood the business of preparing the material, manufacturing and making up.

Alexander Crabs had learned the blacksmith trade with his father and worked at his trade on the farm a few years, living in the Hardenbrook house. They were members of the Associate Church. He bought land in Holmes County, moved to it and worked at his trade and improved his farm. Not having church privileges there, when opportunity offered, he sold and moved to Fredericksburg where they had preaching by the Rev. Irwin. He followed his trade there until

about the year 1844, when he sold again and moved with his family to Locust Grove, Adams County, Ohio, and settled on a farm. At that time there was a prospect of building a congregation of Seceders at Locust Grove. Failing in that he sold again and moved to North Liberty on Cherry Fork in the same County, where they had priveleges in the church of their choice.

He was an elder in that church (now United Presbyterian) numbering two hundred sixty-two members. Here they lived till he was called to his reward on the 28th day of December, 1880, being a few days over 83 years old, having lived with an affectionate wife fifty-seven years and nine months. He was buried in the United Presbyterian graveyard at Cherry Fork.

Sarah Crabs was one of those women who was an entire manufacturer from the seed to the garment; she was industrious and economical and an indefatigable worker. It may be truly said of her, "She seeketh wool and flax and worketh willingly with her hands." "She layeth her hands to the spindle and her hands holds the distaff." "Her

price is far above rubies."

Their eldest daughter (intermarried with William Hutchinson) they left at Fredericksburg when they moved from that place. She is now dead. At Locust Grove they buried their oldest son. The balance, one son and three daughters, married, and the children, grand and great grandchildren aggregate, at this writing, 1883, nearly fifty. The mother, after her husband's death, lived with her son, David, until she was called to her reward on the 17th day of January, 1883, and was buried beside her husband in the Cherry Fork burying place.

Mary Crabs was married to William Croskey May 14, 1822 in her twenty-second year. Mr. Croskey was a descendent of the Ringland family mentioned before in connection with the history of Mother Crabs. He was of Irish parentage and lived with his parents in Harrison County, Ohio. After their marriage they lived on the old homestead and took care of the parents during their lives. They raised a family of eight children, four boys and four girls, named, Robert, Margaret, Henry, Anne, Mary, Sarah, John and Will-

iam. Mary Crabs was one of those women who always had a mind of her own and on proper occasions could express an intelligent opinion on any subject. She graduated in the kitchen under the instructions and example of a careful mother and was well fitted to take charge of a household. Her management there was equal to the best, and her temperament was of the kind to make her a comfortable companion. Their union was a happy one. Mr. Croskey died after having lived with his wife about fifty years. Shortly after his death, she accidentally fell and injured her hip and has walked with crutches ever since. She bears her affliction with Christian grace, always cheerful and happy. She retains her mind well, reads the news and is well posted on common occurrences of the day. She has passed her fourscore and two; she is living with her son John and is being cared for by himself and family with credit to themselves and comfort to the crippled mother. Those eight children were all baptized in the Associate Church and are all married comfortably and in good outward circumstances.

Robert Croskey intermarried with Mary E. Hycoff. They

had seven children, named John, Mary, William Henry, Annie, Nora, Robert and James.

Margaret married to James Thompson. They had two children, named Martha Elisabeth and Annie Carrie.

Henry intermarried with Rachel Hamilton. They had four children named, Joshua, Clara, Mary J. and Rhetta.

Anne married with John Clifford. They had two children, named, Annie Mary and Willie.

Mary married George McFadden. They had three children named, Mary Lizzie, William Henry and Emma.

Sarah intermarried with Thomas Groves. They had children as follows: William Francis, Mary Jeannette, Thomas, Elmer, Augustus Clarkson, Marie Emma, Carrie Crabs and Lois Anne.

John married with Eliza Mansfield. They had children named William Blakely, Rhoda Welch and John Mansfield.

Mary Crabs Croskey died January 2, 1893, and was buried in Cadiz Cemetery. Age 92 years.

Elizabeth Crabs was married to Hans Walker June 13, 1827, aged 25 years. Hans Walker was of Irish parentage by the father's side; the mother, American born. Hamilton Walker bought the farm on Yellow Creek owned by Joseph Reed and moved to it from Steubenville about the year 1825, his object being church privileges, his family being members of the Associate Church.

Hans Walker and wife were members of the church at Yellow Creek. Some time after their marriage Samuel Dorrance and Hans Walker were chosen elders. When the union was formed the congregation accepted it and Mr. Walker was a member in it when he was called to his reward, April in 1874. His wife survives him and though never a very rugged woman is now at the age of fourscore enjoying a good degree of health, and is being well cared for on the old homestead by her children.

Mrs. Walker is the mother of eleven children. Two died in infancy and nine were raised to maturity, three

boys and six girls, named Mary, Henry, Jane, Hamilton, George, Esther, Anne, Sarah and Elisabeth. Mary and Anne, are, we hope, in heaven. The balance of the family are members of the church in good standing, Hamilton occupying the place made vacant by the death of his father in the United Presbyterian congregation at Yellow Creek.

Elisabeth Crabs Walker died April 28, 1887. Was buried in the burying ground at Yellow Creek Church.

Henry Crabs learned the blacksmith trade with his father and carried on the business some time after he was of age. He intermarried with Esther Walker April 12, 1827. Father Crabs had purchased a quarter section of land from Alexander Johnson on which was a grist and saw mill on Long's Run. This he divided between his sons Henry and Abram. Henry moved to the part allotted to him soon after his marriage and commenced working at his trade and farming some. Here some of their first children were born. After living there only a few years he sold to David McCutcheon and the farm is now owned by one of the heirs ---

--W. W. Sutton. He bought again, in Carroll County near Scroggsfield. He followed his trade and soon gathered a fine custom. With the assistance of journeymen and two good apprentices (named Moses and Jesse Palmer) he furnished the community at Scroggsfield with everything in the line of blacksmiths in those days.

Henry and Esther Crabs were members of the Associate Church in early life; at Scroggsfield he was elected elder; was a good member of the Session and an exemplary man. Not satisfied with his location and his business he sold again, which was perhaps the greatest error in his life, and moved to Adams County, Ohio near Locust Grove, where there were a few families of Seceders, hoping in time to build up a congregation. But they were disappointed. They not only failed to have preaching but here they buried three of their children, Anne, Mary Jane and John, and on the 11th day of October 1845 he was called to that better land from whence there is no return.

They had eight children, four sons and four daughters, named, Hamilton, John, George, Willie, Anne, Mary Jane, Sarah and Elisabeth.

Some time after the death of Henry Crabs they sold

the farm. The oldest son, Hamilton, started for California and landed there safe, in Nappa Valley and is reported wealthy.

Mrs. Crabs managed to keep the balance of the family together until they were old enough to choose occupations, or partners for themselves. Her first move was to North Liberty in the same County, where there was a fine congregation of Seceders known as the Cherryfork Church. Here they had school and church privileges. Her next and last move was to Xenia, where she for many years took charge of the boarding department of the Seminary students, which as those students say, was done with taste and economy. Here her youngest son, Willie, died. Esther is about seventy-four years old and enjoys excellent health. Only last year she visited her son in California. She found him in Nappa Valley engaged largely in the vineyard and wine business. There only remains, at this writing, Mother, Hamilton and George. Esther is with her son-in-law Wallace in Iowa, and George is in Xenia in the grocery business at this writing, 1883.

Abram Crabs intermarried with Mary Shane, daughter of Isaac Shane late of Jefferson County, Ohio. Isaac Shane, from the mother's side, sprung from the same stock of people as Father Crabs, and was in his ninety-eighth when he died in 1880. Soon after Abram Crabs married he settled on the property allotted to him on Long's Run and lived where Joseph A. Elliott now lives. He attended the grist and saw mills, doing the business in that line for the community for a few years. Here their first child, Isaac, was born. He sold to William Smyth and purchased a farm on the State Road near Fairfield from James Hutchinson, now owned by Edw. Graham. After living on the farm a few years he sold again and purchased a quarter section on the east side of his Hutchinson farm, where W. H. Crabs now resides. After living on that farm a few years and improving it pretty well he sold it and bought the Graden farm, No. 16 in Springfield Township, the same county. A very fine farm indeed -- every inducement to stop moving.

Through these years of changes and labor he had, with the assistance of an industrious, careful and agreeable wife, accumulated a competence amounting to independence.

Strange to tell, and Providence can only tell why, he sold that farm to Jack Croskey and bought again a short distance from where he first bought near Fairfield. This farm was well improved. They are living comfortable as they could wish, with children around them to care for them.

1802063

Abram Crabs is in his seventy-seventh year and his wife is only a few years younger. They are members of the United Presbyterian Church at Richmond. Mary is the mother of ten children, one dying in infancy. Nine of them lived to maturity, named Isaac, Anne, Martha, Sarah, Hannah, Mary, Eliza, William Henry and James Harvey. Two are dead, three living in Iowa and four in Ohio.

The Chequered life of Abram Crabs and wife, with all its meanderings, from a human standpoint would appear useless if not fruitless. But a good Providence, who fixes the bounds of our habitation, sees things very different when he is over-ruling them for His glory and the good of His people. The promise of being led to old age and hoary hairs has been varified. Their married life has been a few years over fifty and although mixed with some adversi-

ty, in trials and even bereavements, yet their compatibility of temperament rendered their married life pleasant and the union a happy one.

The nomadic life of Abram Crabs is somewhat uncommon. He is hardly entitled to the denomination of "Resident Farmer."

Abraham Crabs died February 22, 1891, and was buried in the Shane burying ground at Bacon Ridge, after having lived with his wife nearly sixty-two years.

Mary Shane Crabs died January 28, 1897, and was buried beside her husband.

John Crabs when he arrived at his freedom had nothing to care for but himself. He was like the majority of boys and would compare pretty well with a "wild ass's colt".

The older brothers were married and had gone to themselves. His services being almost indispensable his father asked him to stay with him one year, and offered as a reward for his labor one hundred dollars. The offer was accepted and the labor performed. When his year expired his

father offered to sell him eighty acres of land lying east of the home farm, which he had entered a few years before at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, for two hundred dollars, this land being the same on which R. M. Crabs now lives and owns. The offer was accepted again. It was the custom on those days, when boys became of age, and if father was able, to give them a horse, saddle and bridle and freedom suit. John at his majority received this boon. He now had one hundred dollars for his year's labor and a horse, which he sold for sixty-five dollars. He then taught school at eight dollars per month and twenty-four days for a month, and boarded himself until enough was earned to pay the purchase price of the land, and the deed was made. The land lay entirely in the forest. He taught school a few winters and in the summer cleared land and improved his farm.

Seeing the necessity of a helpmate in order to properly conduct the business of a farm he united in marriage with Jane McLaughlin, daughter of Robert and Nancy McLaughlin, on the 5th day of May 1836. On the 17th day of the same month they moved to their cabin in the woods on their own place. Here on every side was plenty of work, which

only nerved this young couple for the contest; John made a good selection in the choice of a partner. She was of Scotch-Irish parentage, reared in a christian family and drilled in all the duties of household affairs, was competent and always willing to do the part assigned her and faithfully discharge the duties of a wife.

Suffice it to say, the labor was arduous and no one except those who have passed through the same ordeal can have a full knowledge of the amount of hard labor required to clear and improve a farm. But the farm was improved. In 1838 they built a large barn, 40 x 60 feet; they also added forty acres to their lands lying east and joining their first purchase.

In 1841 they made brick and in 1842 they built a brick house where R. M. Crabs now lives. As opportunity offered, they added to their acres until it reached 230. After living on this farm sixteen years he bought the homestead farm and moved to it in 1852, where they have since lived. John Crabs is what might be called a resident farmer, never having lived out of sight of the place where he was born in 1808.

Jane Crabs was the mother of six children, five boys and one girl, named, Henry Keller, Robert Mitchell, James Alexander, John Shane, Ross and Anne Eliza. James Alexander died when he was sixteen months old. The balance grew to maturity. H. K. Crabs died in the service of his country during the Rebellion in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He was brought home and buried in the United Presbyterian Graveyard at Yellow Creek, of which church he was a member. During his absence in the Army he was in connection with Thomas George and Andrew Stevenson, fellow soldiers, chosen elders in the congregation at Yellow Creek by a unanimous vote. H. K. Crabs died as aforesaid. Thomas George, son of Robert and Martha George, was killed in the battle at Perrysville, Ky., and Andrew Stevenson escaped and is living at Wheeling, West Virginia.

R. M. Crabs intermarried with Jane George, owns and now lives on the place improved and first occupied by his father. It might be here noted that at the breaking out of the Rebellion he volunteered and was in the Army through Kentucky. He took the measles, his health failed and he

was honorably discharged. His brother, H. K. Crabs, took his place and met the fate as aforesaid. Before he died he telegraphed his father to come. R. M. Crabs was sent immediately. On his arrival at Bowling Green he learned he had been buried about one hour. Not willing to leave his bones in that bloody land he had him resurrected and brought him home and buried him as aforesaid.

John Shane Crabs intermarried with Maryetta McLennan, daughter of Kenneth McLennon, Esquire, of Jefferson County, Ohio, of Scotch parentage. He lived in Salineville, Columbiana County, Ohio, engaged selling goods.

Ross Crabs intermarried with Crissie George, owns and lives on the old homestead farm.

Annie E. Crabs intermarried with W. K. Smyth; lives on their own farm about one mile southwest from the homestead which has passed down to the third generation.

That homestead from which has issued the origin of many families and where centers many fond recollections;

where John and Jane Crabs are living with their son, Ross and where John Crabs was born seventy-four years ago. Surrounded by grateful and affectionate children, whose circumstances have been made comfortable by the savings of industrious parents; living within reach of the church of which they have been members forty-six years, where all their children were baptized and in due time became members; where all their dead were buried and where all their well-springs are, and where at last they expect to rest in their graves until the resurrection.

With all these present privileges and future hopes they certainly have a fair prospect of spending the balance of their days in plenty and peace.

John Crabs died December 10, 1899, aged 91 years and twenty days.

Jane Crabs died February 11, 1902, aged 86 years 11 months and 8 days.

To the union of R. M. Crabs and Jennie George the record is continued on page 78.

John Shane Crabs, continued from page 53, had one daughter, Janet Angeline, born and raised to womanhood and married Leslie Smith, and resides in New York City and without issue to this date (Jan. 1, 1909) (Two daughters, Mary Elizabeth born January 24, 1917, and Elinor Louise born March 5, 1926).

J. Wilbert Crabs and Verne Elisabeth George were married May 25, 1911, and reside on the old Henry Crabs homestead, being the fourth generation now occupying that farm.

Anna E. Crabs Smith was the mother of eight children. She died July 9, 1902, after seeing her children all grown to maturity. They came in the following order: Jennie Maud, who married William Jenkins and resides in Pittsburgh; Scott: Mattie, who intermarried with Stanley Morrison; John C.; Raymond, a pharmacist in Pittsburgh; Eugene, who was killed in a mine disaster at Ellsworth, Pennsylvania. He was employed in engineering work. Oella; Anna,

who, with Scott, is in the family at home -- January 1, 1909.

Philips Crabs intermarried with Anne George, daughter of Thomas and Jane George of Jefferson County, Ohio. They lived in a house built for that purpose on the home farm. Here his first child, Thomas, was born. While it was said of John Crabs, that he was a resident farmer, it could truly be said of Abram and Phil that they were only sojourners. After living only a year or two on his father's farm he bought a small farm on Beaver. In a short time he sold and moved to Glade Run. He always made it a point to locate where he could have church privileges. The next place we find him in on Conotton, in a small congregation under the care of the Rev. Thomas Wilson. Here he should have stopped. He owned the farm on which the town of Dellroy has since and is now being built, and a railroad is now running through and under which lays a fine vein of coal. If he had been contented to stay only a little longer he could have realized an immense sum of money.

But they had moved often enough to beget a mania for change, and everything must be sacrificed to satisfy that desire. The next place we find them is on the place now

occupied by William Kean in the forks of the creek in Springfield Township, Jefferson County. Here, where all their early associations were, where they were raised to maturity and were united in wedlock, and in the neighborhood of friends, and in easy reach of the church, where they first made an open profession of their faith. Here it might be supposed was their resting place; here they would like to die and here they would like to be buried. But there is a place in Indiana near Bloomington in Monroe County, said to be the best place entirely -- a milk and honey land.

The next thing was a vendue and a move to that fair land. Only a very few years sufficed to test the merits of that fair land. It was weighed in the balance and found wanting.

The next move was for Huntsville, Hardin County, Ohio, still careful to pitch his tent towards a place of worship. His next move was back to Indiana in Green County. Here his wife died and was buried in the United Presbyterian Graveyard at Scotland. After her death, the children being grown up and scattered, he sold his farm there and is living with his children for the present.

Philip Crabs is a man of uprightness and integrity, and of unimpeachable moral character. He was elected elder while living in the Connotton church and his walk and conversation was always as becomes those in his station.

Anne Crabs in her later years was rather delicate in health, subject to bad spells of asthma, which shortened her life. She was the mother of eight children, four boys and four girls, named, Thomas, Anne Jane, Henry Wilson, Christiana, Philip, Frances Agnes, Eliza, and William Kelley, one dying in infancy, the balance all raised to maturity and all married except the youngest, Willie.

It might be proper to say here that Henry Wilson, son of Philip and Anne Crabs, is a popular preacher in the United Presbyterian Church. A few of his first years was assigned to St. Louis, Mo., his next place was Indianapolis in Indiana. He is now preaching very acceptably to a fine congregation in Buffalo, New York.

Thomas G. Crabs intermarried with Fannie Robinson. They had nine children, named, James Robinson, Philip, Annie, Jennie, George and Joseph.

Anne Jane Crabs intermarried with John Cherry. They had three children, one dead, the others named Lola and Sallie.

Christiana K. Crabs intermarried with Joseph Van Buskirk. They have six living children, named, Annie, Maud, Fannie, Jennie and Joseph.

Henry Wilson Crabs intermarried with Jennie Harbiston. They have two children, Mary Anna and Grace.

Philip Crabs intermarried with Miss Blair. They have two children, a son and a daughter.

Frances Agnes Crabs intermarried with David Mortland, M.D., of Edgerton, Ohio.

W. K. Crabs, homesteading in Nebraska.

These children were all baptized in the United Presbyterian Church and are church members.

Philip Crabs died December 22, 1889 at his daughter's home, Crissie Van Buskirk, living in Sheridan County, Nebraska, and was decently buried at the United Presbyterian Church at Gordan, Nebraska, December 24, 1889.

Annis Crabs was united in marriage with Robert George the 17th day of March, 1836. They begun housekeeping in the neighborhood of Mechanicstown soon after and were members of the church at Scroggsfield where he was chosen elder. He was the oldest son of Judge Robert George of Carrollton. They improved the farm on which they first settled, added some to it and built a brick house and were comfortably fixed.

The family being predisposed to consumption he fell a victim to that disease after living with his wife about twelve years, leaving no children. He died without a will and the place was sold and she returned to her father's house.

The widow afterwards intermarried with James Ramsey, full cousin of her first husband; also a member and elder of the same congregation, and having bought the farm on

which the widow was left at her first husband's death. He creditably filled the place of her first husband on the same farm, in the family, in the church and in the state. With Mr. Ramsey she had two children, one boy and one girl, the son dying in infancy.

Mr. Ramsey, after living with his wife about the same length of time her former husband had lived with her, died of the same disease and she buried them both from the same house and in the same graveyard at Scroggsfield. At the death of Mr. Ramsey the widow was left with the care of the farm.

Being a woman of energy and business, and capable of transacting her own business profitably, she held the farm a few years and managed very well. Finding the labor too great she sold the farm and was left in possession of considerable means. She purchased a lot in Mechanicstown. After living there a few years and until her daughter, Anne Eliza was schooled and arrived at maturity, having intermarried with Joseph Nelson, they purchased the farm on which they now reside. This farm is on the road leading from Mechanicstown to Salineville.

They are members of the United Presbyterian Church at Mechanicstown. Mrs. Ramsey makes her home with her daughter and has an apartment of her own in the house. She is about seventy years old, enjoys good health and is full of business and management, and has plenty of means to keep her independent during her natural life.

Mrs. Ramsey died March 17, 1893, being the fifty-seventh anniversary of her first marriage, in her eightieth year and was buried in Scroggsfield Cemetery.

Thomas Crabs having worked for his father a few years on the farm after his majority did, in the month of August 1841, intermarry with Nancy Anne McLaughlin of Carroll County, Ohio. She was of Scotch Irish descent and partook largely of the grit of her nationality. Always up to the mark on her own side of the business affairs of the household and ready to reach out and render assistance wherever help was needed. She proved a good and efficient helpmate to her husband.

They lived the first few years of their married life

in the house built on the homestead for Philip. Here their first two children were born, a boy and a girl. From this house they buried their first child in the graveyard at Yellow Creek.

Thomas Crabs and his father-in-law, Robert McLaughlin, purchased a farm in Harrison County in the neighborhood of Jefferson, on which Thomas moved and finally owned, and on which he has since lived. Shortly after they moved to Harrison County their oldest son, born at Yellow Creek, died and was taken back and buried beside his sister at Yellow Creek. By industry and close application to business they, every year, added something to their stock until they were able to add to their acres.

They are now living independent at their own home, their two youngest daughters, unmarried, with them. It might be said, happy is the man who is in such a shape as this.

Nancy A. Crabs is the mother of ten children. Four died in infancy. One son and five daughters are living, named, Margaret, Mary Elizabeth, George, Nancy Belle, Martha Jane and Carrie. These children were all baptized in

the United Presbyterian Church at Jefferson where the family worshiped, and were all members.

Thomas Crabs is nearing his threescore years and ten, his wife only a few years younger and both of rather delicate constitution.

Thomas Crabs died near New Rumley on January 7, 1900 at the age of eighty-four years and six days.

Nancy A. Crabs, born January 26, 1819; died September 12, 1900; aged eighty-one years, seven months and sixteen days.

George Crabs was at the time of his freedom an honest, unsuspecting and good natured boy. Raised on a farm he was well drilled in the requisites of a good farmer.

He intermarried with Sarah Shepperd, lived in the log house on the farm where Philip and Thomas were weaned a short time. He then moved onto the place known as the Lowe Farm owned then by his father. He afterwards sold the place to George on very easy terms, so easy that George

forgot the debt and commenced building. First a fine barn 40 x 60 feet and then a frame house. These improvements involved him so that after some time he was forced to sell his farm. On this place all his children were born, named, Thomas, Henry, Lucinda, James, Simpson. Thomas died when a child and was buried in the United Presbyterian Graveyard at Yellow Creek. The parents were members at that time. He is now living near Unionport. George was born in the brick house built by his father in 1820 and is now sixty-three years old.

George Crabs died at Unionport on the 28th day of June 1888 in the sixty-eighth year of his life and was buried in the graveyard at Annapolis, Jefferson County, Ohio.

Sarah Crabs died March 19, 1901 in her seventy-seventh year.

William Crabs, youngest of the twelve children, intermarried with Eleanor Taylor. He lived a few years after his marriage in the house with his parents and farmed the

place. His wife was predisposed to lung disease of which she died after living with her husband about five years. They had one son named Henry Newton.

He afterwards married Belinda Moore; bought the Matthew Barr farm; lived there a few years during which his second wife died of diabetes, leaving one child name Mary Justina. With the assistance of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Moore, he managed to keep house for some time. Discouraged with that arrangement and preferring married life, he sold the farm, married Miss Lizzie Peterson, moved to Indiana and settled in Brown County. Here his third wife died, leaving five children, named, Alice, William, Keller, Lena, and Maud. Being pretty well accustomed to marrying he soon found another wife named Keziah Tracy, pretty fine girl, and good housekeeper, fully equal to the other wives but the prospect not so good for children. He is living happy with his fourth wife in the village of Spearsville, Brown County, Indiana, selling goods for a livelihood and is the Postmaster at that place. Is sixty years of age.

This finishes a short history of the twelve children

of Henry and Anna Crabs. At this writing there are nine living and three dead, the oldest living in her eighty-third year and the youngest in his sixty-first year.

William Crabs died March 7, 1892, buried at Spearsville, Brown County, Indiana.

** Paragraph omitted from Page 15.

In those days it was necessary in beginning improvements to make ample provision for large families. Father Crabs, foreseeing wants and taking measures to supply them, cautious always, and prudent, comparing the future with the past, saw at a glance the necessity of a commodious house.



This picture is of the gravestone of Sarah Keller, wife of Henry Crabs, the emigrant ancestor, which is still standing in a pasture on the original homestead about five miles south of Monongehela City, Washington County, Pennsylvania. All other stones in this burial plot have disappeared, as have all the original buildings which once marked the early home of the Krebs (Crabs) family in Washington County.

It is my hope that a Crabb Organization may be formed by the interested descendents of Henry Crabb and Sarah Keller, for the purpose of compiling a Crabb genealogy. Any person interested, please write to

Mrs. Lida Harshman
Box 556
Mineral Ridge, Ohio

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